

THE
Medical and Agricultural Register.

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M E D I C A L.

DR. ADAMS,

If you think the following worth publishing, it is at your service.
J. G. COFFIN.

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

NOTHING is more common than to hear complaints against the prevalence of quacks, and the multiplication of patent remedies, while the impositions of the former find subjects enough for their trade, and the bad effects of the latter are carefully kept out of sight, by those whose business it is to silence truth, and to propagate deception. Nor is it very likely these evils will cease so long as there are men sufficiently weak to believe whatever is roundly asserted, and there are characters sufficiently depraved so to assert whatever will answer their purpose. Still, for those who can discriminate, and for those who are willing to be influenced by reason, it is not useless labour to expose the acts of imposture, wherever they can be detected.

These remarks are occasioned by three instances which have come under my notice, in which the use of that infallible specific for most of the diseases of the human body, the "Bilious Cordial," has been attended with injurious effects. The last instance was the case of a young man considerably debilitated, but not otherwise out of health.

This young man went to the learned inventor himself, who of course recommended the Bilious Cordial, and which the patient, contrary to the remonstrance of his friends, made use of. The result was, that his weakness was greatly increased, with

total loss of appetite, night sweats, &c. He is now in the country, in a doubtful, if not in a hopeless state of exhaustion. This sufferer was, unfortunately, as I believe, for him, a former acquaintance of the "Blue Bottle" * gentleman; and it was natural enough in him, who knew nothing of the diseases, and little of the character of men, to imagine that the "Patentee" himself knew best the properties of his own *discovery*, and that he was too honest to recommend what would not be beneficial in his case.

The Patentee, who "studied out and acquired" this invaluable remedy, says, "it is a vegetable preparation, which may be taken in all climates, by either sex, at any age or circumstances in life. It is a restorative cathartic, a carminative, diuretic, and menagogue, and a predominant detergent, quite palatable; calculated effectually to cleanse, warm and strengthen, a foul, cold, bilious and oppressed stomach; sweeten the blood, and regulate constipated bowels; promote digestion; regulate the appetite, and give a spring to the mental faculties." That it has had this last effect on the author no one can doubt, who will just take the trouble to read his "Description, use, &c. of the Bilious Cordial," a very ingenious pamphlet of forty-eight pages.

After reading the above extract, the philanthropist would naturally wish, that a remedy thus estimable might be so well known, and accompanied, in its diffusion through the country, with such circumstantial and plenary "Directions," as to enable every parent and guardian of youth safely to give it in all those numerous and various complaints of the human system, in which it is pre-eminently curative. And what ought to be the public gratitude to Mr. Chamberlain, when it is known that the pamphlet in question in a great measure supplies this desideratum! It contains at least six ample directions, in which much is said about and "in favour of the Bilious Cordial," together with much *instruction* how to employ it, &c. all of which, valuable as it is, if neglected, must arise from the fault of those who do the subject *injustice*, not from those who labour to promulgate it. It is a very pleasant thing to know, with regard to this most friendly of all medicines, that beside its intrinsic virtues, enough surely to recommend it to all *reasonable* people, it possesses a wonderful power of accommodation as to its manner of operating, so much so that the *proprietor* assures us, that it may be taken in any quantity all the way "from a table spoonful to a pint!"

Now it has been the misfortune of most other active medicines, that when misapplied, they have done mischief in pro-

* Sold at the sign of the Blue Bottle, Court-Street, Boston.

portion to their good effects when properly administered. Not so with the "Bilious Cordial," this discretionary balsam, which may be called "the poor man's blessing, and the rich man's life," is so accommodating as I said before (excuse repetition, for too much cannot be said in favour of a good thing so much undervalued) that if it be possible in any case to take too large a dose of it, the only inconvenience is—the loss of the article!

But I think I have said enough, and am willing to stop, not because I think it possible to say too much in commendation of the "Bilious Cordial," but because I conceive that what has already been said here and elsewhere to call the public attention to the general interest ought to be sufficient, and because, furthermore and lastly, if this effect is not produced, it must be owing to an inattention and obstinacy, which are in all probability incorrigible.

Boston, September, 1807.

On the Causes of Death in Diseases that are not incurable.

[From Dr. RUSH's Introductory Letters.]

IN considering the causes of death in diseases which are not incurable, I shall

- I. Mention those which are derived from Physicians.
- II. Those which arise from the conduct of sick people.
- III. Those which arise from the conduct of their attendants and visitors.
 1. Under the first general head I shall first mention *ignorance* in a physician, arising from original incapacity, or want of proper instruction in medicine.
 2. A cause of death in diseases that are not incurable, arises from the *negligence* of physicians. This negligence extends to their delays in not obeying *immediately* the first call to a patient, to their inattention to all the symptoms and circumstances of a disease in a sick room, and to the time of the visit, not being accommodated to those changes in a disease, in which remedies of a certain character can be applied with effect. Negligence from the first of these causes has occasioned the death of many patients.
 3. Physicians render curable diseases mortal, in many instances, by their connecting the measure of their services to the sick with pecuniary considerations. This is one reason, why more of the poor than of the rich die of mortal epidemics. Extravagant charges for medicinal advice and attendance, have

produced such delays in sending for a physician, as have given a curable disease time to advance to its incurable stage.

4. Forgetfulness in a physician to visit his patients, and to send them medicines at regular and critical hours.

5. A preference of reputation to the life of a patient, has often led physicians to permit a curable disease to terminate in death. The death of a patient, under the ill-directed operations of nature, or what are called lenient and safe medicines, seldom injures the reputation or business of a physician. For this reason many are permitted to die, who might have been recovered by the use of efficient remedies.

6. A sudden indisposition attacking a physician, so as to prevent his regular and habitual visits.

7. Patients are sometimes lost in curable diseases, by fraud and uncertainty in the composition and doses of medicines, by which means they produce greater or less effects than were intended.

8. The prescriptions of physicians written in a careless and illegible hand, have sometimes produced mistakes in the exhibition of medicines, which have been the means of destroying life in diseases that had no tendency to death. Verbal prescriptions have occasionally been followed by the same unfortunate issue.

II. Causes of death, which originate with sick people.

1. *Ignorance.* Medicine has, unhappily for mankind, been made so much of a mystery, that few patients are judges of the talents or qualifications of physicians; hence the bold and artful are often preferred to the modest and skilful.

2. *Prejudice* in patients in the choice of physicians; this prejudice is either of a religious or political nature. The former leads men to prefer physicians of their own sect, the latter of their own party, without any regard to talents or knowledge.

3. *Fashion* has a powerful influence in determining sick people in the choice of a physician, and as the leaders in it are generally as ignorant as those who follow them, of the true character of physicians, men are preferred who add by their ignorance to the mortality of curable diseases.

4. Many patients die of curable diseases by neglecting to apply in *due time* for medical aid. *Cancers* and *consumptions* have been called incurable diseases. This is far from being true. If the tumors which nearly precede all cancers were extirpated immediately after they were discovered, and if the premonitory symptoms of consumption were met by proper remedies, we should seldom hear of persons dying of either of those diseases.

5. *Neglect* in patients to comply with the prescriptions of their physicians. We sometimes discover, after the death of our

patients, medicines that would probably have saved them, upon a mantle-piece, or in the drawer of a dressing-table. Patients who recover, sometimes humorously insult their physicians, by telling them of the improper and even prostituted use to which they have applied their medicines. Sir Richard Nash was once asked by his physician if he had followed his prescription. "If I had," said Sir Richard, "I should certainly have broken my neck, for I threw it out of my window."

6. The neglect of patients to make use of the remedies of their physicians, at the *time* and in the *manner* prescribed; but not only by neglecting to use remedies at the *time*, but by using them in a *different manner*, are frequent causes of death in curable diseases.

7. The *indulgence* of the *appetite* by sick people for food and drinks improper from their quality or quantity.

8. *Fear* has often rendered diseases fatal.

9. A *dread* of the expenses of medical services has sometimes, by preventing an application to a physician, occasioned death from diseases that might have been cured by a single dose of physic.

10. A peculiar irritability of temper has sometimes induced death in diseases which, under other circumstances, might have been cured. A British officer died of a sudden paroxysm of anger in the yellow fever, because his nurse refused to indulge him in plentiful draughts of wine and porter.

11. Improper applications to business or study, and riding out prematurely have in many instances converted a curable disease into a mortal disease. Dr. Campbel of Kendal, says he once lost a patient after the crisis of a fever by sitting up a few minutes in his bed to answer a letter. I have known two instances of death from the impatience of sick people to enjoy the benefits of exercise and country air.

12. An excess of delicacy by disposing patients to conceal the nature and seats of their diseases, is sometimes the cause of their mortality.

13. Love, debt and guilt, which are seldom acknowledged by sick people, frequently united with diseases of a mild nature, render them incurable.

14. Habits of secret drinking.

III. *Causes of death which arise from the conduct of the attendants and visitors of the sick.*

1. I shall first mention the fatal effects of *consultations* between physicians of opposite medical principles. Consultations lessen responsibility, and by blending render inert or hurtful, modes of practice, which, if pursued separately, might have been successful; for it is a fact that there are not only *different* modes of

curing the same disease, but the same disease may be cured by *opposite* medicines. Next I shall mention the conduct of nurses as a frequent cause of the fatal issue of diseases. Far be it from me to blame indiscriminately this class of people. Many of them deserve praise for their humanity, and some for their skill in the management of the sick; but melancholy experience has taught us that death is often the effect of negligence, ignorance, and wickedness, which they discover in the following ways:

(1.) They neglect to give sick people medicines, drinks, and diet, at the *time* and in the *manner* in which they are prescribed. Further, nurses often neglect to change the body and bed linen of the sick. They keep them too hot or too cold, or they give them too little or too much air.

(2.) Nurses frequently assist diseases in destroying life, by their ignorance.

(3.) Nurses render curable diseases mortal by robbing sick people of those drinks and aliments that are prescribed for them. This vice is the parent of greater evils than either negligence or ignorance; for when drinks, which are frequently of a spirituous nature, are taken by nurses, the stupidity or intoxication which is produced by them, leads them to treat sick people with cruelty, and thus to give a mortal issue to a simple disease.

(4.) Nurses often desist from giving medicines in the most critical stages of diseases, from despair of their doing any good, or from the fear of exciting unnecessary pain, in what they suppose to be the last moments of their lives.

2. Of the visitors of sick people who contribute to render curable diseases fatal, I shall first mention physicians who are not sent for, and who obtrude their visits as friends. It will be impossible for patients to avoid asking them questions, and it will be difficult for them to answer them in such a manner as not to interfere with, or defeat the plans of cure of the attending physician.

Visitors of another kind drawn from the neighbourhood, or circle of consanguinity, help to render simple diseases mortal, by their loud or long conversation, by their tales of sickness and death from similar diseases, by urging them prematurely or indeately to settle their affairs, by sapping the confidence of sick people in their physician, by advising heterogeneous consultations, by dissuading them from the use of painful or disagreeable remedies, or by persuading them to make use of such as are pleasant but feeble, and which they say have been effectual in supposed similar cases.

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

DR. ADAMS,

IF you think the following "Extract" may contribute in any measure to the furtherance of the objects contemplated by your periodical publication, you will gratify one, at least, of your subscribers by introducing it.

*Massachusetts, August, 1807.***PASSAMAQUADDY.**

Extract from a Manuscript Oration, read before an Association of Physicians, instituted in one of the Counties in this Commonwealth a few years since, for the Improvement of Medical Knowledge, "On the Objects of the Association."

"With a view to enlarge our knowledge of the nature of diseases, we ought to open dead bodies as often as it may be convenient. Dr. Rush recommends to his pupils to improve such opportunities as often as possible "without doing violence to the feelings of" their "patients, or the prejudices of the common people." We know that the most rational method of treating diseases is founded on a knowledge of their seats and proximate causes; and it has been long confessed that the extispicy,* or history of the phenomena discovered on opening bodies, dead from previous disease, is of the last consequence in acquiring that knowledge. Dr. William Rowley, in his learned treatise on "Nervous diseases," has, perhaps, given the world the best history of the extispicy of diseases that can at present be found, and places in a clear point of view the vast importance of that branch of our inquiries. It is to be hoped, my friends, that a superstitious veneration for the relics of the dead will ere long be done away, and that physicians will be permitted unreservedly to explore an avenue so highly important towards the investigation of the nature of diseases."

Important Hint.

FOR the cure of a vitiated palate, we cannot suggest a better remedy than *temperance* and occasional *abstinence*.

Dr. Willich.

* Every well-read physician will recollect that I am not *original* in the use of the word *extispicy*; therefore, it is believed that no apology is necessary for introducing it in this place.

AGRICULTURAL.
~~~~~*Observations on the best Method of restoring worn-out soils,  
without Manure.*

THE first thing necessary on such lands, is immediately after harvest, to turn them up with the plough as deep as possible. In order to do this effectually, it will sometimes be needful that a second plough should follow the first in the same furrow; which will throw the mould over, and bury the stubble and weeds. In this case there will be a new soil uppermost, which, being fresh to the air, will receive much greater and more lasting benefit from the sun, the rain, and the frosts, than it otherwise could do; as thereby it will attract a greater quantity of the nutrition, which these afford. The stubble and weeds being by this method of ploughing buried deep, will much sooner rot, than when just covered. In this state the ridges will lie high; and if the land be wet; or of the brick-earth kind, they will be full of clods or large lumps.

No time should now be lost by delaying to render this newly turned up soil as fine as harrowing can make it. I know that, in this particular, my judgment will be called in question by numbers. Common farmers will say, "To what purpose is all this expense and labour, when, if the land be suffered to lie in its rough state through the winter, the frost and the rains will do the work for you?"—But this is the language of the indolent and inexperienced husbandman only.

I am convinced, by repeated experiments, close observation, and plain reasoning on known facts, that lands which are made fine before the sharp frost and winter rains come on, will receive a much greater share of their influence than any other. If the land be left in a rough state, there is seldom time for the rains and frost to affect more than the outside of the large clods or lumps: the outside will indeed be pulverized; but the middle of the lumps, wherever they are large, will be found nearly in the same hard stiff state, as when turned up by the plough. Hence it must appear to every one, that in this case, the benefit of air, winter rains, and frosts on lands thus left, is partial; and the consequence is, that harrowing it in the spring, when these are over, is too late for its receiving the benefit which would otherwise have accrued from them; and the power of vegetation is not so vigorous.

But to make winter fallows as fine as they can be in autumn, and then ridge them up in that pulverized state, is acting in a

manner the most conformable to nature. The greatest possible quantity of surface is, by this means, exposed to the atmosphere; and the land is left in a state in which the rains and the frost are most easily admitted. They will then penetrate and enrich the whole mass to a greater depth.

If the frost penetrates a quantity of earth, formed into a large hard clod, partially, on account of its bulk and hardness (which is always found to be the case) it is evident that the same clod, broken into four parts, would be thereby penetrated four times as much; or, in other words, four times the quantity of earth would be affected by it, and, on a thaw, be pulverized. For we find that, after the breaking up of a severe frost, all the small clods crumble easily into powder; while the larger ones are only made smaller, by the crumbling of their surface to a certain depth.

By this deep ploughing, which I have recommended, the worn-out soil being turned in, the second stratum, or fresh earth, is now uppermost; and having been made as fine as it can be in autumn, and thus exposed to the air, the rain, and frost; during winter, and cleansed of its impurities it becomes a fresh fertilized earth, in the best possible state for vigorous vegetation.

Many farmers will probably object to this method, on account of its being attended with a little extra expense. But I wish them to consider, first, that this expense is more in appearance than reality; for less labour is requisite in the spring—and secondly, that it will be amply repaid by the goodness of succeeding crops.

About seven years since, I made a comparative experiment of this kind on a field of ten acres, the soil of which was as equal as possible in goodness. The one half of this field I left, after ploughing, in its rough state, the surface being covered with large hard clods, the other half I made as fine as possible, by harrowing with ox-harrows, and beating in pieces the hardest and largest clods, which the harrow would not break.

In the spring, the part which I had harrowed, was, without any additional labour, much finer than I could render the other (which was left in its rough state) by repeated harrowing; for the rain and the frost having not penetrated the middle of the large clods, they had received no benefit from either, and were as hard as bricks, being only lessened in size.

I sowed the whole field with barley the last week in April, and threw nine pounds of broad clover in with it. On reaping it, I kept the crops separate; the part left rough produced twenty-four bushels per acre; the other thirty-one; the latter by much the finer sample. The crop of clover next year was equally in

[September,

favour of the method I recommend, being heavier by near half a ton per acre.

The extra expense, on this part, was only about eight shillings per acre; the extra produce yielded an extra profit of more than twenty shillings per acre.

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*Directions for the culture of the currant-bush.*

The currant-bush, though a shrub that grows almost spontaneously, requires nevertheless some dressing; in regard to which the following directions may be of service.

Plant them round the quarters in your garden, that they may have the benefit of the dung and culture annually bestowed thereon, which will consequently make the berries large and the juice rich.

The red currant is preferable to the white, as yielding richer juice, and in much greater quantity.

Take the most luxuriant slips or shoots of a year's growth, set them in the ground about eight inches deep, and not less than twenty four distant from each other; these never fail of taking root, and generally begin to bear in two years. For the rest, let them from time to time, be treated as espaliers (but not against a wall) observing to keep the roots, especially in the spring of the year, free from suckers and grafts.

This treatment is the more necessary, as the goodness of the wine in a great degree depends on their having the full benefit of the sun and air, to maturate and give the berries a proper balsamic quality, by exhaling a due proportion of their acid watry particles.

*Receipt for making currant-wine.*

Gather your currants when full ripe, which will commonly be about the middle of July; break them well in a tub or vat, (some have a mill constructed for the purpose, consisting of a hopper, fixed upon two lignum vitæ rollers) press and measure your juice, add two-thirds water, and to each gallon of that mixture (i. e. juice and water) put three pounds of muscovado sugar (the cleaner and drier the better; very coarse sugar, first clarified, will do equally well) stir it well, till the sugar is quite dissolved, and then tun it up. If you can possibly prevent it, let not your juice stand over night, as it should not ferment before mixture.

Observe, that your casks be sweet and clean, and such as never have had either beer or cyder in them, and, if new, let them be first well seasoned.

Do not fill your casks too full, otherwise they will work out at the bung, which is by no means good for the wine; rather make a proportionable quantity over and above, that after drawing off the wine, you may have sufficiently to fill up the casks.

Lay the bung lightly on the hole, to prevent the flies, &c. from creeping in. In three weeks or a month after making, the bung-hole may be stopped up, leaving only the vent-hole open till it has fully done working, which generally is about the latter end of October. It may then be racked off into other clean casks, if you please; but experience seems to favour the letting the wine stand on the lees till spring, as it thereby attains a stronger body, and is by that means in a great measure divested of that sweet, luscious taste, peculiar to made wine: nay, if it is not wanted for present consumption, it may, without any damage, stand two years on the lees.

When you draw off the wine, bore a hole, an inch, at least, above the tap-hole, a little to the side of it, that it may run clear off the lees. The lees may either be distilled, which will yield a fine spirit, or filtered through a Hippocrates's sleeve, and returned again into the cask. Some put in the spirit, but I think it not advisable.

Do not suffer yourself to be prevailed on to add more than one-third of juice, as above prescribed, in hopes the wine may be richer, for that would render it infallibly hard and unpleasant; nor yet a greater proportion of sugar, as it would certainly deprive it of its pure vinous taste.

By this management you may have wine, letting it have a proper age, equal to Madeira, at least superior to most wines commonly imported, and for much less money.

In regard to the quantity of wine intended to be made, take this example, remembering that twelve pounds of sugar are equal to a gallon of liquid: for instance, suppose you intend to make thirty gallons only, then there must be,

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 gallons of juice,         | 24 gallons. of mixture,       |
| 16 of water,                | multiplied by 3               |
| —                           | —                             |
| 24 gallons of mixture,      | 12) 72 lb of sugar,           |
| 6 galls. produced by sugar, | equal to 6 gallons of liquid. |
| —                           | —                             |
| 30 gallons.                 |                               |

And so proportionably for any quantity you please to make.

The common cyder-presses if, thoroughly clean, will do well in making large quantities; the small hand-screw press is most convenient for such as make less.

N. B. An extraordinary good spirit, for medicinal and other uses, may be distilled from currant-juice, by adding a quart of molasses to a gallon of juice to give it a proper fermentation.

[September,

## For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

THERE are more estates made by *economy* than by large incomes. The *latter* every one cannot enjoy, but to be prudent and not to suffer waste, is in the power of all. One cent on a single meal of victuals, may be thought unworthy of notice and hardly worth the care of saving ; yet, when the sum of a year's meals is calculated for a person, a family, and a nation, it becomes striking and important. A cent a meal, amounts to three cents a day.

|                                                   | Dolls.     |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| One person, at three cents a day, saves in a year | 11         |
| One family of five persons                        | 55         |
| A nation of five millions of people               | 55,000,000 |

The cent thus saved by the good house-wife, on every *plentiful* meal of the *wholesomest* food would be sufficient for maintaining the most desperate war by the freemen of America, in defence of their country, against the *wiles* and the *violences* of the great enlightened world.

*Advantages of Carrots in fattening Oxen, &c.*

NOTHING can exceed this root for fattening oxen ; but they should have some sweet hay to eat with it, and they will thrive much better on it if they are stalled. It nourishes them much, and soon makes them fit for the butcher. Some oxen will not take to eating them kindly at first. For those they should for a time be parboiled ; but they must every day be less and less boiled, till they come to eat them quite raw, which in a little while the nicest will do. I also find carrots excellent for increasing the milk of cows.

Hogs are very fond of carrots, and they make them thrive apace ; but they should always be given to them boiled, as they will with great difficulty be induced to eat a sufficient quantity of them raw. It will be proper, however, to give them before they are killed, either a few bushels of barley meal, or some grey peas, boiled, or some corn, which will complete their fattening to admiration.

There is not a better and more heartening food for horses than carrots, if given them with discretion. They need have no corn, and much less hay than they would otherwise eat. I have all my life heard it said, that carrots were exceeding good to make horses long-winded ; and some jockies will, I have been informed, feed a broken-winded horse some little time with carrots before they sell him, when he may be very well passed off for a horse that is only a little thick winded.

A horse-dealer in my neighbourhood, when he buys a poor, half-starved beast, if he has youth on his side, always farts him

up with carrots before he takes him to market ; and this practice he finds answers very well, as the horse is sooner got into flesh with carrots than any other food ; and they are besides wholesome, breeding in him no foul humours.

All the danger seems to be to the purchaser, who, if he imprudently put the horse to too hard work, is in a manner sure to break either his wind or his heart ; for as the horse was very suddenly got into flesh, his strength is not proportioned to his bulk, till he has been kept some time on dry meal.

That a horse thus fed should not be immediately fit for any hard labour, must not be used as an argument against carrots being a proper food for horses. It must be considered, that this man takes a half starved horse, and gives him at once his fill of a nourishing food ; in fact, too nourishing, as it fills him with flesh faster than he can have time to gather strength.

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

*Result of Meteorological and other Observations, for August, 1807 ;  
made at Deerfield, Warwick, Portsmouth, Smithfield, (R. I.)  
Hartford, (Conn.) and Boston.*

| August, 1807. | Mean degree<br>at sun-rise. | Mean<br>at 2 P.M. | Mean degree<br>of the month. | Greatest heat<br>in the month. | Least heat in<br>the month. | Prevailing<br>winds. | Marriages. | Births.    | Deaths. |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|---------|
|               | at 2                        | at 2              |                              |                                |                             |                      |            |            |         |
| Deerfield     | 62 $\frac{1}{2}$            | 79 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 75 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 15, 17, 31, 88°                | 24                          | 53°                  | S.         |            |         |
| Warwick       | 60 $\frac{1}{2}$            | 80                | 70                           | 8, 18, 31, 86                  | 24                          | 46                   | S. W.      | —          | 4 1     |
| Portsmouth    | 67                          | 76 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 69 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 10, 18, 31, 84                 | 25                          | 54                   | S.         |            |         |
| Smithfield    | 63 $\frac{1}{2}$            | 75 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 69 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 10                             | 83                          | 24, 26               | S. W.      |            |         |
| Hartford      | 63 $\frac{1}{2}$            | 80 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 72                           | 31                             | 88                          | 24                   | 50         | S. & S. W. |         |
| Boston        | 63 $\frac{1}{2}$            | 74 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 69 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 10                             | 88                          | 24                   | 52         | S. W.      |         |

### WEATHER.

|                                             |    |                 |
|---------------------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> day, fair.                  | 16 | Sund.           |
| 2—Sund. clouds and sunsh. alternately.      | 17 | fair,           |
| 3—cloudy, some showers. <i>New Moon.</i>    | 18 | some            |
| 4—rain.                                     | 19 | clouds.         |
| 5) fair, brisk winds and flying             | 20 |                 |
| 6) clouds ; at <i>Portsmouth</i> on the     | 21 | rainy.          |
| 7) 7th a very heavy thunder shower.         | 22 |                 |
| 8—fair, shower at night.                    | 23 | Sund.           |
| 9—Sund. fair.                               | 24 | fair            |
| 10—fair, show. at night. <i>First quar.</i> | 25 | and             |
| 11—cloudy.                                  | 26 | pleasant.       |
| 12—pleasant.                                | 27 |                 |
| 13—overcast, rain at night.                 | 28 | cloudy, rain.   |
| 14—cloudy, rain at night.                   | 29 | foggy mornings, |
| 15—rain forenoon, fair afternoon.           | 30 | Sund. then      |
|                                             | 31 | pleasant.       |

*Fall Moon.*

Quantity of water fallen in rain, *Warwick*, 7.45 inches.

*Smithfield*, 8.55 inches.

*Warwick, August 31, 1807.*

THIS month has been warm and wet, the wind southerly, and the air very disagreeable. Grain has been considerably damaged by the wet weather. The farmers are but just finishing their English hay. The meadows are covered with water, and no hay of consequence has been got from them.

*State of health.* A considerable number of cases of fever have occurred; some of which run immediately into the putrid and nervous state.

W. C.

*Smithfield, August 31, 1807.*

This month has been warm and very wet. Rivers and springs are high for the season. There have been but few days of clear, elastic, agreeable air, during the month. The atmosphere has been loaded with exhalations, which its density has scarcely been sufficient to bear up to the region of clouds. This rarity has occasioned general complaints of a disagreeable relaxing closeness in the air. Indian corn is backward; and it is believed that the cool nights of the 24th, 25th, and 26th, have considerably injured the crop. Vegetation has been rapid during the month.

*State of health more unfavorable.* The influenza is very prevalent, and some cases of fever.

"When o'er this world, by equinoctial rains  
Flooded immense, looks out the joyless sun,  
And draws the copious steam from swampy fens,  
In vapours rank and blue corruption wrapt,  
then, wasteful, forth  
Walks the dire power of pestilent disease."

A SMITHFIELD SUBSCRIBER.

*Hartford, August 31, 1807.*

Much cloudy, wet weather. Early fruit plenty, but not so good as in other years. Influenza very rife; in some instances, fatal.

*Deerfield,\* August 3, 1807.*

A very wet month and healthy except at the close when the influenza began to prevail. Crops of grass extraordinary good.

\* July—Month very wet. English grain some blasted, except early sowing. In some instances the flies did considerable damage to the wheat, but not so much as was generally expected. Month very healthy. Sunday the 19th a remarkable hail-storm attended with rain, lightning and thunder passed over several towns west of Deerfield; which in some places entirely destroyed the crops. A gen-

Indian corn rather small. A correspondent at Cincinnati, State of Ohio, has furnished me with the following thermometrical observations made at that place by Jared Mansfield Esq. Surveyor-General. The observations were taken from two to three o'clock P. M. The mean of each month is as follows:

1807, January,  $35\frac{1}{2}$ ; February, 36; March,  $42\frac{2}{3}$ ; April, 59; May,  $70\frac{1}{2}$ ; June, 82; July,  $88\frac{1}{2}$ . Lowest descent, 11 below zero; highest, 94 above. This last was the ninth of June, when the thermometer stood in this town at 92. Cincinnati is situated on the north bank of the Ohio River, according to Ellicott, lat.  $39^{\circ} 5' 54''$ .

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### *News, Medical, Agricultural, &c.*

ONE of the most universally prevailing epidemics yet known, a species of influenza, has lately visited this country. It seems to have appeared first to the southward, as early as the month of July, and its course has been that of the Atlantic States, to the north-east. The most usual symptoms have been, pain in the head, sometimes confined almost wholly to one side, and affecting particularly the ear or the eye of that side; pain in the breast, back, and limbs; soreness of the throat and stomach; cough, this however in many instances has been very slight; nausea or sickness, accompanied with chills, thirst, increased pulse, and fever. A species of ophthalmia, or inflammation of the eyes, which attacked very suddenly, has been somewhat prevalent at the same time. Notwithstanding the general prevalence of this epidemic, it has not often been attended with very severe or dangerous symptoms; a large proportion of those who have suffered from it not having been confined to their beds or room.

Considerable attention seems to have been excited in some of the southern States, to improving the breed of sheep. Two very beautiful sheep have lately arrived at Arlington, from Smith's Island, perfectly wild. This island is situated at the mouth of Cape Fear River, in North Carolina. A specimen of the wool of these native sheep was exhibited in August last, before the agricultural society of Pennsylvania, convened in the city of Philadelphia. It is said nearly to resemble the famous Spanish

tleman from Conway informed me that hail-stones were found as large as common hen's eggs; these were of an irregular form. Four or five days after the storm large masses of ice were found on the ground whence the hail rolled from hills against fences, &c. Have we a satisfactory explanation of the formation of such large hail-stones in the atmosphere?

[September.]

wool, excepting that the animals will yield nearly three times as great a quantity; is nearly the length of the English combing wool, and exhibits beyond contradiction the congeniality of the climate with the perfection of that valuable staple of manufacture. This island is improved as a pasture for sheep. They are shorn twice a year. After shearing they are set at liberty. The extent of the island is such, that many are never taken, and live to a great age.

The weight of eight choice ewe lambs, at the sheep shearing at Mount Airy, in North Carolina, was as follows:—

| No. 1 | Weight of the fleece. | Length of wool<br>6 inches. |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2     | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb    |                             |
| 3     | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$       | 9                           |
| 4     | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$       | 8                           |
| 5     | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$       | 10                          |
| 6     | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$       | 8                           |
| 7     | 7                     | 8                           |
| 8     | 8 $\frac{3}{4}$       | 9                           |
|       | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$       | 10                          |

Gross weight of lamb No. 8, after shearing, 93 lb.

There has lately been erected in the city of Philadelphia, a FACTORY, containing two looms, in the largest of which cloth is made seven yards wide. Such is the superiority of its machinery, that one man alone is able to make from thirty-five to forty-two square yards per day. It is said, that in Europe, two men at least are employed in making cloth of this width, who together seldom produce more than eighteen yards per day.

The object of the factory is that of making the patent floor cloths or summer carpets, similar with those of Hare's patent, hitherto always imported; for the perfection of which, it is best there should be no seam; it is therefore necessary to weave of this extraordinary width.

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N. B. Our agricultural friends and correspondents, as they come to be more at leisure, are particularly solicited for the favour of their communications.

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